

Interagency Wildfire Management Team

Meeting Notes

September 10, 2003

Phoebe Suina (Infrastructure Projects, LANL) reported that the transition plan for the Cerro Grande Rehabilitation Project is in draft form. At the present time, 1500 to 2000 cubic yards of material remain to be burned before October. At that time, the activities at the borrow pit will be discontinued. The largest air curtain destructor will be moved to Lower Slobovia, and the remaining two destructors will be salvaged. During FY04, the Infrastructure Projects Group will continue to thin the forests and remove dead trees from Rendija Canyon and Los Alamos Canyon. The Group will also incorporate soil erosion and flood control improvements into selected fire roads.

Phil Taylor (Office of Emergency Management, Los Alamos County) recently attended the New Mexico Emergency Management Association meeting in Albuquerque. The meeting included a section on emergencies related wildfire.

Jim Streit (Fire Protection Group, LANL) and Rob Farris have reviewed and commented on the recently completed Baseline Needs Assessment.

Susan DiMauro (Davey Resource Group) announced that the Los Alamos Defensible Space Project is in its final stages of work. Work has been completed in both White Rock and Los Alamos. Within Los Alamos participation has been approximately 70 percent. The methods for assessing sites for potential inclusion in the project include factors related to the vegetation type, potential flame lengths of wildfires, and the proximity to untreated forested areas. Susan is also on the steering committee for the next Firewise Conference that will be held at the El Dorado Hotel in Santa Fe. Contact Susan (505-661-9769) for more information.

Randy Balice (Ecology Group, LANL) has been drafting the Wildland Fire Hazard Assessment Plan, which is a component of the LANL Wildland Fire Management Plan.

Bill Gall (Los Alamos Area Organization, DOE) announced that LANL will host the DOE Fire Conference in April, 2005. Jim Streit will be the local host. The conference will include a tour of LANL, demonstrations of LANL capabilities, discussions of legal aspects of wildfire issues, and presentations on selected NFPA codes.

Todd Haagenstad (Ecology Group, LANL) has distributed an outline draft of the LANL Wildland Fire Management Plan for internal review. The draft plan, which is based on DOE guidance, will be submitted to the Operations Directorate by the end of September. The plan will contain sections on land management and fire policy, wildland fire management strategies and components, and monitoring and evaluation.

The next IWMT meeting will be at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, September 24, at TA-21, Building 210 in the RRES-ECO Conference Room (142). The IWMT meets every other week and these meetings are open to the public. Contact Randy Balice (balice@lanl.gov, 665-1270) for further information, or to get on the distribution list for these meeting notes.